

The companies we represent are developing and deploying a wide range of innovative clean energy technologies, utilizing domestic biomass, wind, solar energy, geothermal power, fuel cells, energy efficient technologies and services, and much, much more. By 2025, these technologies could provide electric power equal to half of all the electricity that our country uses today. By 2030, our industries could replace 30% to 40% of the petroleum our country now imports. By doing so, our industries could make a significant contribution to curbing global warming pollution, enhancing our nation's energy security, and creating up to 5 million new jobs by 2025.

However, to achieve these goals, we must find enough qualified, trained people to design, manufacture, install, operate, and maintain a host of innovative renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. Across the country, our companies experience workforce shortages as one of the key barriers to growth. Indeed, a recent literature review from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) identified the shortage of skills and training as a leading non-technical barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth.

We believe that the \$100 million dollars authorized by the Sanders-Clinton Amendment is urgently needed to develop national and state skill training programs that will prepare workers for our emerging industries, analyze market trends, and demonstrate best practices. While the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries use many skills that can be transferred from other sectors, in many other cases, our companies require specific, new skills to take maximum advantage of the newer energy technologies. By establishing a pilot program specifically geared toward the renewable energy and efficiency industries, the Sanders-Clinton Amendment would enable us to build the workforce our industries need to achieve their maximum potential.

Our companies stand ready to help our country with new energy technologies that will make us all more secure, curb the threat of global warming, and create economic opportunity for millions of working Americans. We urge you to vote "yes" on the Clinton-Sanders Amendment as a crucial step toward achieving these vital objectives.

Sincerely,

BRADLEY D. COLLINS,
Executive Director,
American Solar Energy Society.

RANDALL SWISHER,
President, American Wind Energy Association.

DONALD GILLIGAN,
President, National Association of Energy Service Companies.

ROBERT DINNEEN,
President Renewable Fuels Association.

RHONE RESCH,
President, Solar Energy Industries Association.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, June 5, 2007.

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing to request your support for an amendment to be offered by Sen. Sanders to S. 1419 the "Energy Savings Act of 2007."

The Sanders amendment would establish the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program to train workers

for good-paying jobs in clean energy design, manufacturing, installation, construction, operation, and maintenance. This program would help U.S. workers get good jobs in an industry expected to experience rapid growth as our nation refits and rebuilds its energy infrastructure, and would help the U.S. economy take advantage of emerging environmental technologies.

To ensure that the benefits from new investments in our national energy infrastructure are distributed equitably, the Sanders amendment would give priority to partnerships that train veterans, workers displaced by globalization or environmental policies, and disadvantaged workers and communities. In addition, to allow for the delivery of training unique to specialized geographic and industry needs, the Sanders amendment balances grants between national, regional, and state workforce development programs.

As Congress considers legislation designed to reduce our country's reliance on foreign sources of fossil fuels, we believe it should also invest in the domestic workforce. American workers should have every opportunity to acquire the skills necessary for job opportunities that will be created by new investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

The AFL-CIO strongly urges you to support and cosponsor the Sanders amendment. To become a cosponsor, please call Jessica Maher in Sen. Sanders' office. If you have any other questions or need any further information, please contact David Mallino in the AFL-CIO's Department of Legislation.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director,
Department of Legislation.

JUNE 5, 2007.

Re co-sponsor the Sanders-Clinton amendment on workforce development for the new energy economy
U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: I write to urge you to cosponsor an amendment that Senators Sanders and Clinton will offer during the upcoming debate on S. 1419, the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007, that would help America develop the specialized workforce skills needed to ensure robust growth of the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. The Sanders-Clinton Amendment would establish an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Workforce Training Program to be administered by the Department of Labor (DOL) in coordination with the Department of Energy.

The purpose of this initiative is twofold—to expand our nation's capacity to identify and track the new jobs and skills associated with the growing energy technology sector and to develop national and state skill training programs that will demonstrate best practices in addressing skill shortages that have already begun to impair the expansion of energy technologies that are crucial to national security, economic competitiveness, and curbing global warming.

Industries eligible for training services under the program would include: energy-efficient building, construction, and retrofits; renewable electric power; advanced automotive drive trains; advanced bio-fuels; and the deconstruction and materials use industries.

As Congress advances programs to enhance our energy security and address global warming, workforce shortages are emerging in the utilities sector that could stymie growth of the renewable energy and efficiency industries. According to the American Public Power Association, half of cur-

rent utility workers will retire within the next decade. However, our nation is not training enough new workers to fill their places. For instance, the number of high school graduates with technical training has declined by 35 percent over the last decade.

Already, the renewable and energy efficiency industries are feeling the pinch. A 2006 study from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) identified the shortage of skills and training as a leading non-technical barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth. In particular, the NREL study identified a number of critical unmet training needs, including lack of reliable installation, maintenance, and inspection services, the shortage of key technical and manufacturing skills, and failure of the educational system to provide adequate training in new technologies.

Leading companies in the renewable energy and efficiency sector experience lack of skilled workers as a key business constraint. According to Steve Cowell, CEO and Chairman, of Conservation Services Group (CSG), a leading provider of building efficiency and renewable energy services, "the growth of the industry is constrained by the challenges of finding experienced, trained people. . . . CSG has identified this issue as our . . . industry's most significant constraint on growth."

The program established by the Sanders-Clinton Amendment would help ensure that our nation has the best models for training workers in the many new skills required to properly manufacture, install, maintain, and operate clean energy technologies. For instance, grant funding provided under the amendment could train workers in such substantial new skills as wind turbine siting, airfoils and composite repair, and weather patterns that affect turbine performance.

While the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries use many skills that can be transferred from other industries, specific, targeted skill enhancements are often needed to take maximum advantage of the newer energy technologies. For instance, investments in training of building maintenance workers and building superintendents and engineers can improve the operations of today's sophisticated heating and cooling systems by as much as 10 percent in large public and commercial buildings, according to the National Association of Energy Services Companies. Such training could save millions of dollars per year in energy costs in larger public or commercial buildings.

The Sanders-Clinton amendment is unique among many of the new energy policies that Congress will consider for providing a pathway for working Americans to earn a family-supporting livelihood in our new energy economy. This Amendment honors the sacrifice of our veterans by including them among groups targeted for training. In addition, the Amendment helps to tap the full range of our nation's human capital by offering training opportunities to those displaced by national energy and environmental policy, economic globalization, individuals seeking pathways out of poverty, formerly incarcerated, adjudicated and non-violent offenders who seek to play a constructive role in society, and incumbent workers in the energy field needing to update their skills.

The \$100 million authorized by the Sanders-Clinton Amendment is needed to implement programs of sufficient size and scale to achieve the dual goals described previously—enhanced labor market information as well as national and state demonstration training programs. The Amendment would authorize up to \$40 million in grants on a competitive basis under a National Training Partnerships program and up to \$40 million in grants to states to implement labor exchange and